US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

District Engineer **October 2003**

Atlantic Coast of New York City,
East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay, New York
Reformulation Study for Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction

This notice announces the initiation of a study to develop and reformulate hurricane and storm damage reduction works for the Atlantic Coast of New York City between East Rockaway Inlet and Rockaway Inlet, New York. The Rockaways have a history of coastal storms with devastating damages and economic loss. The Atlantic coast shoreline of the Rockaway Peninsula is subject to storm-induced erosion (recession) and long-term erosion. In addition, the peninsula, including its low-lying areas along Jamaica Bay, is subject to the threat of severe damages from tidal inundation (flooding) and wave runup. The study area includes the lands on the Rockaway peninsula within and surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and Jamaica Bay. The Rockaway peninsula, which separates the Atlantic Ocean to the south from Jamaica Bay to the north, is characterized by a low-lying and flat terrain with elevations generally less than 12 feet above mean sea level. The communities within the Rockaway Peninsula include Far Rockaway, Edgemere, Arverne, Neponsit, Rockaway Park, Seaside, Belle Harbor, Breezy Point, Roxbury, and Holland all located entirely within the Borough of Queens, New York. The remainder of the peninsula is taken up by Fort Tilden and Jacob Riis Park, which is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area. The existing Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection project for East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay, New York was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-298), in accordance with the recommendations contained in House Document No. 215, 89th Congress. The existing beach erosion control project was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.

In May 1993, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a report entitled "Atlantic Coast of New York City, East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay, New York – Final Reevaluation Report." This report recommended continued Federal participation in the beach fill renourishment for three additional nourishment cycles over a 9-year period. It also recommended a reformulation of the existing project be undertaken to identify potential environmentally sustainable alternatives that would provide greater net storm damage reduction benefits, while possibly also reducing the overall project cost.

The non-Federal sponsor, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), signed an agreement in May 2003 to share the cost of the reformulation study ($3,000,000) with the Corps (75% - 25%, Federal – non-Federal). The NYSDEC, in turn, will act on behalf of New York City as the primary non-Federal sponsor. The project area is within Congressional District 6 represented by Congressman Gregory W. Meeks and Congressional District 9 represented Congressman Anthony D. Weiner.

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The Corps and NYSDEC recognize that local knowledge of storm damage conditions and associated problems is an invaluable aid in formulating solutions. Therefore, the intent is to involve the local community and other stakeholders to the maximum extent possible. We request and welcome any pertinent information on coastal storm damage information, including improvement suggestions, environmental issues, and any other related areas of concern, about the East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay study area from Federal, State, local agencies, and the public, including local interest groups and civic organizations. A wide and inclusive level of public involvement and participation is desired. Please address your comments and submit any information to Mr. Anthony Ciorra, Project Manager or Mr. Edward Wrocenski, Project Planner, at the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10278-0090 ----ATTN: CENAN-PL-F--Room 2145.

John B. O'Dowd
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer